

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 2

Bill Roy
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Atchison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Edgar W. Howe Home	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1117 North Third street			
CITY OR TOWN: Atchison			
STATE Kansas	CODE 66002	COUNTY: Atchison	CODE 005

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Kenneth D. Dunham			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1117 North Third street			
CITY OR TOWN: Atchison	STATE: Kansas	CODE 66002	CODE 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Atchison County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Atchison	STATE: Kansas	CODE 66002	CODE 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1957 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kansas State Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth street			
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka	STATE: Kansas	CODE 66612	CODE 20

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

C 79/80

005-0260-004

STATE: Kansas	COUNTY: Atchison	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edgar Watson Howe Home is a two-story red brick structure rising from a native stone foundation. The brick is laid in common running bond and the stone in random ashlar pattern. The house is irregular in plan with a two-story octagonal tower projecting from the north side and a three-story octagonal tower on the south. A large porch with brick pillars spans the entire east front. An iron railing encloses the space between the pillars. The shingled hip roof has dormer windows, and there are miniature spires at each end of the ridges. The roof overhangs the brick wall below and is supported by decorative brackets. Coupled brackets are used at the corners. Windows on both floors are of the double hung type and are rectangular in shape. The windows rise from stone sills and are capped with curved stone lintels. The lintels have simple designs except for those on the east facade, which are ornamented with carvings and a keystone. A small frame outbuilding located to the rear of the house is similar in character to the main house. The exterior of the Edgar W. Howe Home is believed to be little changed. However the interior has been considerably altered as the building has been used as an apartment house. The main house is a good example of the Renaissance style of architecture in Kansas.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1880's

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edgar Watson Howe Home at 1117 North Third street in Atchison was built in the early 1880's for the well-known Kansas newspaper editor and his family. The Howes had moved to Atchison in 1877, where he established the Daily Globe even though the city already had three newspapers. He distributed free copies of the Daily Globe for the first two weeks and after that had no difficulty getting subscribers. The personality which Howe injected into the Globe and his concern with people rather than things soon made his publication a success, and eventually all other Atchison newspapers went out of business.

As his newspaper achieved financial success, Howe made plans to move his family from their small house on Santa Fe street. He purchased land on what was then known as the old Doniphan road; at that time the site was out in the country. The house erected for him was said to have been patterned after one in the neighborhood which he knew and admired. Although there is some question about the specific date the house was completed, an 1882-1883 Atchison city directory lists the Howe family residence as 1117 North Third street. Later a small one-room frame house was built beside the larger house, and after his wife divorced him in 1901, Howe lived and wrote there for several years before returning to the main house. After he retired as a newspaper editor in 1910, he built a bungalow three and one-half miles south of Atchison overlooking the Missouri river. At "Potato Hill" as his retirement home was called, he began publishing a magazine, the E. W. Howe Monthly. The town house was left almost entirely as it was, and Howe continued to live there during part of the year. After his death in 1937, Howe's niece resided in the Atchison house. The building was later made into apartments, but the present owners reportedly plan to restore it to its original appearance.

Edgar Watson Howe has often been referred to as the best small-town newspaper reporter in the nation, and the Globe during his tenure was one of the most widely quoted papers in America. The "Sage of Potato Hill," as he became known in his retirement years, was also a successful author of many articles and books in which his philosophy on life and religion was expressed. His most famous book,

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atchison, Kansas Industrial Souvenir (Atchison, Burbank's Printshop, 1909), pp. 36, 37.
 Blackmar, Frank W., editor, Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912), v. 1, p. 877.
 Burnett, Adele Mehl, "Little Journeys to the Homes of Kansas Authors," Kansas Teacher, V. 43, no. 1 (April, 1936), pp. 28, 29.
 Drury, John, Historic Midwest Houses (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota Press, 1947), pp. 212-214.
 Hawley, Charles Arthur, "Town of Atchison and Editor Ed Howe 'Sage of Potato Hill,' Grew Up Together," Kansas City Star, August 7, 1954.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		39	34	28
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		95	06	59
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

two

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Richard Pankratz, Planner	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Kansas State Historical Society	November 16, 1971
STREET AND NUMBER:	
120 West Tenth street	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Topeka	Kansas
	66612
	20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Nyle H. Miller

Title Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date December 15, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Atchison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. The Story of a Country Town, described life in a small midwestern community. The widespread recognition Ed Howe received as a western newspaper editor and author has made him an important literary figure in Kansas and throughout the entire country. His house in Atchison is significant because of his noteworthy accomplishments in journalism and literature.
9. Howe, E. W., Plain People (New York, Dodd, Mead and Co., 1929). Pickett, Calder M., Ed Howe: Country Town Philosopher (Lawrence, University Press of Kansas, 1968).
Rose, Bill and Catherine, compilers, Atchison Centennial, 1854-1954 (Atchison, Lockwood Co., 1954).
"Seeing Atchison," Kansas City Star, April 5, 1914.
Stronks, James B., "William Dean Howells, Ed Howe, and The Story of a Country Town," 8 pp. pamphlet reprinted from American Literature, v. 29, no. 4 (January, 1958).
Watson, John, "Famed Persons Like Amelia Earhart, Aviatix; Ed Howe, 'Sage of Potato Hill,' Claimed Atchison As Home Town," Wichita Evening Eagle, January 7, 1954.

11-19-7
OK

